

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 STR-07 FMC-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 DODE-00 /071 W
-----072283 220906Z /21

P R 220755Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 154
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMCONSUL DOUALA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 10364

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, NI
SUBJECT: TEMPORARY LOSS OF BERTH 9 BY AWAF

REF: STATE 207549

1. NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY (NPA) WILL TRY TO ENSURE THAT NO BERTH, INCLUDING APPROPRIATED BERTH OF AMERICAN WEST AFRICAN CONFERENCE LINE (AWAF), IS COMPLETELY CLOSED, ACCORDING TO D.P. OPARA, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER FOR DEVELOPMENT. THIS STATEMENT WAS MADE AUGUST 19 IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF DEMARCHE AS SUGGESTED REFTEL. OPARA EXPLAINED THAT THE APRONS OF THE QUAYS NOW HAVE TO BE CLOSED AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS USE DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF PORT CONGESTION WHICH STRETCHES BACK TO 1975. HE POINTED OUT THAT FORKLIFTS CAN'T EVEN OPERATE IN ROUGH AREAS OF THE APRON. TO ENSURE THAT NO GROUP OF SHIPPERS OR RECEIVERS EXPERIENCES HARDSHIP, THE NPA HAS ASKED THE RESPONSIBLE ENGINEERS TO DO A PART OF THE JOB AT A TIME IF IT IS POSSIBLE, INSTEAD

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OF CLOSING DOWN MEILFO BERTH AREA FROM 6-9. ALSO, HE SAID, ENGINEERS WILL NOT BEGIN WORK BEFORE THEY HAVE ASSEMBLED ALL THE MATERIALS TO DO THE WORK. HE SUGGESTED A SECOND ALTERNATIVE WHICH IS TO BERTH THOSE THAT NORMALLY CALL AT BERTHS 6-9 IN THE NEW THIRD APAPA WHARF EXTENSION. FYI: THIRD APAPA WHARF EXTENSION EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE IS MARCH 1979. WILL

HAVE FOUR CONTAINER BERTHS AND TWO NORMAL CARGO BERTHS.
END FYI.

2. THIS SECOND OPTION IS LESS FAVORED SINCE IT WILL
INVOLVE A GREAT DEAL OF TRANS-SHIPMENT. NO SHEDS ARE
AVAILABLE AT NEW BERTHS AND SO GOODS WILL HAVE TO BE
CARRIED OVER TO SHEDS SUPPORTING BERTHS 6-9. IN RESPONSE
TO QUESTION BY EMBOFF, OPARA COULD NOT STATE WHEN THE
SUGGESTED RENOVATION OF BERTHS WOULD TAKE PLACE. HE
STATED THAT GENERAL MANAGER TUKUR IS FULLY APPRAISED OF
AWAFC PLIGHT AND THAT A CABLE WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY FROM
NPA TO THE CONFERENCE LINE.
WYMAN

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NNN

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